

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

STATUS OF APPLICATION

Claims 1-19 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 11 have been amended. Claim 19 has been added. Support for the amended and added claims can be found in the specification. No new matter has been added.

Examiner states that the information disclosure statement filed on December 14, 2001 is not in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97, 1.98, and MPEP § 609. Examiner requested that Applicants resubmit the non-patent literature documents for further consideration. An information disclosure statement for the non-patent literature documents will be filed shortly under separate cover.

Examiner stated that there are no Field of the Invention and Description of the Related Art headers, and requested correction.

Claims 1-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,446,061 to Doerre et al. ("Doerre").

THE SPECIFICATION

Applicants have amended the specification to include the requested headers in order to conform to the preferred layout of a patent application as suggested in MPEP 608.01(a) and (c).

THE CLAIMS

Claims 1 and 11

Applicants respectfully submit that Doerre does not teach or suggest each and every feature recited in claims 1 and 11. For example, claims 1 and 11 recite, in part, "inputting an initial organization structure into the clustering process." Examiner cites Doerre, col. 12, lines 35-41 as purportedly teaching this element. However, the cited passage discloses analyzing email to find common themes. It does not teach or suggest inputting an initial organization structure for this collection of emails. In fact, Doerre states that predefined taxonomies or classification schemes are not necessary for its clustering. (Doerre: col. 12, lines 33-34).

In addition, claims 1 and 11 recite, in part, "determining a resulting organization structure based upon the processing, the resulting organization structure more closely resembling the initial organization structure" The resulting organization structure is determined from the initial organization structure, plurality of items, and the information in each of the items. In this way, the initial organization structure can be extended with additional categories at appropriate points of the hierarchy, and items can be assigned to extended hierarchy. (See written description, paragraph [13]).

Nowhere does Doerre teach or suggest determining a resulting organization structure in the manner claimed. Examiner cites Doerre, col. 14, lines 57 to col. 15, lines 20, to support Examiner's assertion that it does. On the contrary, the passages cited by Examiner describe the creation of a category scheme, or "a dictionary which encodes in a condensed form significant vocabulary statistics for each category." (Doerre: col. 14, lines 63-65). The output of the categorization tool is a text document that lists each input document together with its highest ranked categories. As far as the Applicants can ascertain, Doerre's category scheme is not a resulting organization structure, nor is it determined using an initial organization structure.

Accordingly, claims 1 and 11 should be allowable for at least the above reasons.

Claims 2-10

Claims 2-10, which depend from claim 1, should be allowable for at least a similar rationale as discussed for claim 1, as well as the additional elements they recite.

Furthermore, with respect to claim 4, Doerre fails to teach or suggest the recited elements as claimed. Claim 4 recites, in part, "at least one additional category coupled to the initial organization structure." Examiner references col. 14, lines 42-51 of Doerre as purportedly teaching these elements. However, the cited passage merely describes categorization of documents to an organization scheme, and automatically linking these documents to an assigned category. It does not teach or suggest changing the organization scheme in any way or, more particularly, the cited passage does not suggest creating additional categories as claimed. Therefore, claim 4 should be allowable for at least this reason.

Claims 12-18

Claims 12-18, which depend from claim 11, should be allowable for at least a similar rationale as discussed for claim 11, as well as the additional elements they recite.

Furthermore, with respect to claim 14, Doerre fails to teach or suggest the recited elements as claimed. Claim 14 recites, in part, "at least one additional category coupled to the initial organization structure." Examiner references col. 14, lines 42-51 of Doerre as purportedly teaching these elements. However, the cited passage merely describes categorization of documents to an organization scheme, and automatically linking these documents to an assigned category. It does not teach or suggest changing the organization scheme in any way or, more particularly, the cited passage does not suggest creating additional categories as claimed. Therefore, claim 14 should be allowable for at least this reason.

Claim 19

Claim 19 recites, in part, "determining a second hierarchy based upon the processing." As discussed above, Doerre fails to teach this element as claimed. Accordingly, claim 19 should be allowed for at least this reason.

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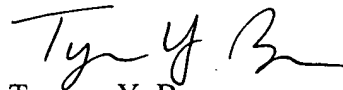
PATENT

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,



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